

The Sun  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1908.  
Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second Class Mail Matter.

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.  
DAILY, Per Month.....\$9 50  
DAILY, Per Year.....100 00  
SUNDAY, Per Year.....2 00  
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year.....22 00  
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month.....1 80

Postage to foreign countries added.  
All checks, money orders, etc., to be made payable to The Sun.

Published by The Sun Printing and Publishing Association at 170 Nassau street, in the Borough of Manhattan, New York. President and Treasurer of the Association, William M. Laffan, 170 Nassau street; Secretary of the Association, Franklin Bartlett, 5 Nassau street.

London office, 21 Rue de la Grande. The daily and Sunday editions are on sale at Kiosque 12, near the Grand Hotel; Kiosque 77, Boulevard des Capucines, corner Place de l'Opera, and Kiosque 18, Boulevard des Capucines, corner Rue de la Grande.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have their articles returned they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

The "Test" Primaries.

Be prepared for any verdict that is recorded to-day by Republicans in the "test" primaries in New York and Kings counties.

These "tests" in the New York districts are to be made in the Second and Sixth Assembly districts on the lower East Side, the Ninth on the middle West Side, the Eighteenth on the middle East Side, the Nineteenth on the upper West Side, the Twenty-fifth about Madison Square, the Twenty-sixth, the Twenty-ninth and the Thirtieth on the upper East Side and the Thirty-fifth in The Bronx.

In the Brooklyn districts the "tests" are to be made in the Eighth and Twenty-first districts.

The machinery in the Assembly districts here mentioned is controlled absolutely by minor bosses who owe the very breath of their political lives to HERBERT PARSONS and TIMOTHY L. WOODRUFF.

Let us await the end of the farce with as much of amusement and patience as is consistent with virtue.

The Demand for Electoral Reform in England.

The Trades Union Congress, which met in Nottingham yesterday and is to remain in session during the present week, is for several reasons the most important gathering of the kind that has ever taken place in England.

In the first place, it will represent more organized voters than were ever represented in a preceding trade congress. In the second place, union labor now speaks with considerable authority in the House of Commons, having at its back not only the Labor party proper, comprising about forty members, under the leadership of Mr. KEIR HARDIE, but also many nominal Liberals who in order to make sure of their seats pledged themselves to support the Labor programme.

Not are these the only reasons for encouragement. The two most energetic and influential members of the Asquith Ministry next to the Premier himself, to wit, Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE and Mr. WINSTON CHURCHILL, have shown themselves ready to go to great lengths in order to secure the hearty cooperation of organized labor at the next general election.

This they have proved by bringing about the enactment of two laws earnestly desired by union workmen, namely, the trades disputes bill and the workmen's compensation bill. As might have been expected, these notable victories, which present a striking contrast to the failure of the education bill, have simply encouraged the trade unions to make more extensive demands. In the present congress they have determined to go to the root of things by enacting such electoral reforms as will tend to increase materially the number of Labor members. Among many proposed modifications of the existing law will be one making registration easier; another providing for a second ballot, such as exists in France, whenever on the first ballot no candidate obtains an absolute majority, and a third requiring general elections to be held on the same day in all constituencies, thus rendering plural voting by large landowners much more difficult than it is now.

The most important, however, of all the innovations upon which organized labor has set its heart is the payment of members.

There seems to be no doubt that Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. WINSTON CHURCHILL, President of the Board of Trade, will approve cordially of these features of the trade union programme, especially of the payment of members and the second ballot. Mr. GLADSTONE used to say that there was hardly any novelty for which a precedent could not be found in England's constitutional history. There is certainly no doubt that the members of the House of Commons received for a long time wages from their constituents. The Knights of the Shire usually got four shillings a day, the Burgesses two shillings. In 1427 we find the townsmen of Cambridge making an agreement with their members to take one shilling. Afterward, as we know, not only did the members cease to be paid, but in the reign of ANNE a statute was passed providing that a Knight of the Shire must have an estate in land worth £200 a year and a Burgess one worth £30. It was not until 1858 that the property qualification for members disappeared altogether. Nevertheless a workingman is still practically disqualified for membership unless the trade unions are willing to provide him with a stipend.

As for the introduction of a second ballot in every case where no nominee obtains a majority over all competitors on the first ballot, it looks as if such

an innovation would be fatal to the Unionists, for it is scarcely conceivable that in a second balloting when only the two candidates who had obtained the highest numbers of votes on the first ballot would be eligible the Liberals and Laborites would not rather vote for one another than for the Unionists, who are hostile to both. There has been undoubtedly a striking reaction all the by-elections that have taken place during the last two years, but in almost every instance the Liberals and Laborites put up separate candidates and thus allowed the Unionist nominees to obtain pluralities. That sort of thing will be stopped if the Laborites succeed in importing into England the second balloting, which has proved acceptable in France.

The Contempt Proceedings Against Gompers.

On July 20 Justice ANDERSON of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia issued an order that SAMUEL GOMPERS, FRANK MORRISON and JOHN MITCHELL should show cause, on or before Tuesday, September 8, why a writ of attachment should not issue against them and why they should not be adjudged guilty of contempt of court and be punished for the same. By agreement of counsel this case will be called to-morrow.

Under date of December 18, 1907, Justice GOULD in Equity Court No. 3, District of Columbia, issued a temporary injunction restraining the American Federation of Labor from boycotting the Buck's Store and Range Company of St. Louis. On March 23, 1908, the injunction was made permanent. The case now to appear arises on the plea of the Buck's company that "notwithstanding the said order restraining and enjoining the defendants," the said defendants "have, since the filing of the said bill and the passage and entry of said order, as well as the final decree, frequently, regularly and systematically, wilfully and with premeditation, violated the said order and the said final decree, and have totally disregarded the same."

The plea alleges that in so doing Mr. GOMPERS, Mr. MORRISON and Mr. MITCHELL have "acted in gross and wilful contempt of the authority of the court." The petition of the company is of considerable length. It reviews the boycott policy of the Federation of Labor from 1897 down to the present time, including Mr. GOMPERS's ejaculation, "Go to— with your injunctions," in the *Federalist* for October, 1907.

The magazine withdrew its "We don't patronize list," but in most of its later numbers, if not in all, it has made some reference to the Buck's company, usually in the form of a statement to the effect that there is no law compelling any one to buy a Buck's store or range or a Loew's. The petition cites letters from an address by Mr. GOMPERS in which the same opinion is expressed in various terms. In other words, the charge is made that the defendants are carrying on an active campaign against the company, which is presumably protected by the order of the court. The case for the defence is presented by Editor GOMPERS in the *Federalist* for August. He there admits with entire frankness that the case has been "editorially discussed" in the magazine. He says:

"If it be held that by editorial review of the suit and the injunction we have violated the order of the court, we say first, that we are not conscious of so doing, and second, that in discussing the suit and injunction, so have many eminently respectable newspapers and magazines, and we were therefore in good company."

This is the plea which the court will have to weigh. Mr. GOMPERS declares that "we cannot bring ourselves to believe that the court will hold that we have been in contempt of its order. To so hold would indeed be the severest blow to freedom of the press and freedom of speech, and the sooner the country shall definitely know it the better."

Judge ALTON B. PARKER will appear for the defendants and Mr. DANIEL DAVENPORT will conduct the case for the plaintiff company.

On the Stump.

Mr. TAFT finds the ennui of porch campaigning a sufficient reason for the dash into the open which is to begin two weeks from yesterday. He can "conceive of nothing more depressing than to be denied active participation in the campaign and to be kept quietly in one place, depending on the necessarily fragmentary reports that come in from time to time." Quiet to quick bosoms is a hell, but with golf and fishing and an occasional speech Mr. TAFT might be tolerably happy, one would think. It has been decided otherwise. It may be more "dignified" to keep out of the hurlyburly, and such was the original plan of his managers, but strong necessity, the unsleeping HITCHCOCK and Mr. TAFT's aversion to repose are now to send him on the road. Mr. BRYAN smiles all over and is convinced that Mr. TAFT goes because he has to and the middle West has a Bryan-like look even in Republican eyes, and so Mr. TAFT must go and save it if he can.

It is a little early for the regular campaign "scare," and the unregenerate condition of the middle West is no discovery. The Republicans have got a hard job there, apparently, and here in New York the bosses have been coquetting and finessing as if the renomination of HUGHES were not indispensable to the salvation of TAFT's bacon. In a few weeks there will be more light in the woods, and we shall know whether a lot of Republican voters will take to them or not.

Meanwhile Mr. TAFT's stumping may serve to stir up the numb and inert canvass. He is a commonplace speaker, with no spark of the kindling and communicative imagination and ardor of the orator. Mr. BRYAN has all the advantage in temperament, in experience, in knowledge of "the psychology of crowds," in plausible and dextrous presentation—and invention. A yet-erant sophist and fallacy maker, a trained hunter of applause, a skilful suggester of fallacies, no friend to

inconvenient truth, Mr. BRYAN plays flawlessly on the prejudice, the passion and the ignorance of crowds.

Mr. TAFT is effective in other ways. Something large, generous, sincere, truthful, honest, able, is conveyed by his personality, his manner. The crowd likes him. It respects him. It believes he knows what he is talking about and that he believes it. Without any gift of beauty or salliness of expression, he has the great art of having no art, of impressing his hearers with his candor, his knowledge of the subject. He persuades without humbug. He convinces by fair arguments. Finally, he irradiates friendliness and he absorbs it back from the audience. Without oratory he does the task of the orator. He carries the audience with him, and this is no momentary triumph. He is established in its memory as a man of lofty character, singular intellectual distinction and personal charm.

So the real advantage in this war of the stump is likely to be with Mr. TAFT, not Mr. BRYAN.

new explorations. The latest instance has just occurred.

Last year a German named VON KNEBEL, with a comrade, MAX RUDOLFF, landed in Iceland on the northeast coast, pushed inland for the purpose of making a detailed survey of the region of Askja, one of the great volcanoes of the island. They were not seen again, but a vague report reached Reykjavik that their boat was swamped on July 10 in one of the hot lakes of that region and they had been drowned. A search party sent out in the late summer found VON KNEBEL's tent and some photographic plates which VON KNEBEL had dated July 23 and 24, 1907, so that it appears that the accident which cost their lives must have occurred later. Their bodies were not found nor were any traces of their boat.

It was announced last spring that Miss VON GRUMKOV, the betrothed bride of VON KNEBEL, intended to visit the region of the volcano this summer, accompanied by the geologist RECK, to make a thorough effort to clear up the mystery. The young woman's heroic determination to discover if possible the fate of her lover aroused widespread interest and the Prussian Academy of Sciences offered to bear a large part of the cost and augment the number of searchers, reserving the privilege of studying on the way to Mount Askja a number of unsolved geological problems.

The generous proposal was accepted and three months ago Miss VON GRUMKOV was one of a well equipped party, that started for Iceland. This party is expected to return late in the present month and it is hoped that the devotion of the bereaved lady will be rewarded at least with the melancholy satisfaction of having revealed the fate of her intended husband.

The Hon. EDWARD WARD CARMACK, sometimes a Senator in Congress from Tennessee and some other time editor of the *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, which then scratched and bit me jealously, is now editor of the *Nashville Tennessean*.

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THE RAINBOW IN VIRGINIA.

STANTON, Va., Sept. 6.—Stanton is a beautiful and prosperous town of 12,000 inhabitants, one would think, lying at the south end of the Shenandoah Valley. The normal Democratic majority in the county used to be 3,500. In 1890, under the stimulus of Bryan's candidacy, it went Republican by 100. The town is thoroughly well built, paved with vitrified brick, supplied with gas, electricity and the best of limestone water. The whole surrounding country is taken up with the farms, most of the farmers are prosperous and the price of land is high and getting higher. What Augusta county will do this year in respect of the national election no one seems to know, but the general impression is that Bryan will as usual attenuate the regular Democratic majority vastly if he does not actually eliminate it. Nevertheless, as things stand, Virginia is not for Taft.

The State called for a ship of about 18,000 tons full load displacement, with a mixed battery of four 11 inch, eight 8 inch, twelve 7 inch and sixteen 3 inch guns. This battery was arranged as in the Louisiana and differed from the latter's only in having 11 inch in place of 12 inch and 9 inch instead of 7 inch guns.

From the foregoing it must be evident that it was very fortunate that the Department of the Navy, in its selection of the homogeneous battery of 12 inch guns, all in turrets in the middle line, is the ideal arrangement.

The truth as to the inception of the Dreadnought idea is a matter for which Mr. T. S. R. apparently accepting Mr. Reuter's statements in *Collier's Weekly* as true, has editorially put forth. The all big gun battleship was proposed in our navy as early as 1899 and was advocated in the *Naval Institute* as early as 1900, and in the *Naval Institute* as early as 1901. Before Lieutenant Poundstone's articles appeared the Bureau of Construction had drawn plans of such a ship, and it had been considered by the Board of Construction as well as the Board of Naval Affairs.

These plans were rejected now seems to have been a mistake, but hindsight is usually better than foresight. Even to-day there is far from unanimity of opinion on this subject.

The writer hopes that THE SUN will publish this letter in the interest of truth.

WASHINGTON, September 5. STAFF.

ANIMAL SAGACITY.

Views of the Schoolmen and Observations of Mr. Jack London.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Mr. Jack London, most industrious of materialists, says some really severe things about Mr. John Burroughs. Among other things he says that Mr. Burroughs is mediocre. The schoolmen thus implicated should not be left entirely to the defence. Strange to relate, scholastic philosophy concedes to "the other animals" in the exercise of their faculties everything Mr. London claims for them. St. Thomas Aquinas brings forward the example of a dog, in pursuit of a deer, who on arriving at the deer's hole, the dog explores the first and second, then dashes away up the third, without stopping to pick up the scent which he failed to find on the other two. Even the exploits of little Rollo do not exceed this manifestation of reasoning power.

Mr. London worries his victim considerably on the head of natural selection, which simply will not explain why "Glen," the son of a wolf-dog, knew so much about automobiles. The schoolmen are entirely too busy to be bothered with such trifles as the guidance of an intelligence to which there is no superior.

They stop just where Mr. London stops when he refrains from claiming for his humble friends the capacity of abstract reason.

Mr. London is enormously exercised over "impassable gulfs." Doubtless this perturbation accounts for the fact that he hauls Mr. Burroughs over the coals for putting the cart before the horse and then deranges his own horse and cart by this statement:

"It was impossible for life to reason abstractly until speech was developed. Equipped with words, the tools of thought, in short the slow development of the power to reason in the abstract, went on. With every word, every increase in the complexity of thought, with every ascertained fact so gained, went on action and reaction in the gray matter of the speech discoverer, and slowly, step by step, through hundreds of thousands of years developed the power of reason."

It would appear that animals who neglected to invent words are thus shut out from the reasoning arena. Moreover, prompt the schoolmen, verily animals who neglect to invent words are thus shut out from the reasoning arena. Moreover, prompt the schoolmen, verily animals who neglect to invent words are thus shut out from the reasoning arena.

One would conclude from Mr. London's remarks that the conception of a brute as an automaton is a medieval error, and that the idea that Mr. London's views concerning animals are very strongly advocated by the *Golden Rule* and *Mathematics*. These names would come in handy if Mr. Burroughs should like to retort in kind.

Mr. London is so much more than a philosopher that he is in a different world from the world of matter, forming the material basis of the world of mind.

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THE INCEPTION OF THE DREAD-NOUGHT IDEA.

Contradiction of Mr. Reuter's Statement About Lieutenant Poundstone.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Lieutenant Poundstone wrote two articles for the *United States Naval Institute*, appearing in the March and June numbers of 1903. In the first article he defended the War Department's latest battle plan (the Louisiana type) from the attacks of critics who alleged that they were too large. The Louisiana has a displacement of about 18,000 tons on full load, and Lieutenant Poundstone in his first article made the following statements:

It is the writer's belief that the battleship of the future will displace not less than 18,000 tons on full load.

The design of our latest battleships would seem to fully and abundantly justify his estimate, and it challenges comparison with the best that is being done in the same line abroad.

In his second article Lieutenant Poundstone presented his views as to the ideal battleship for the United States navy. The plan called for a ship of about 18,000 tons full load displacement, with a mixed battery of four 11 inch, eight 8 inch, twelve 7 inch and sixteen 3 inch guns. This battery was arranged as in the Louisiana and differed from the latter's only in having 11 inch in place of 12 inch and 9 inch instead of 7 inch guns.

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A DYING MAN'S RECORD.

He Told of the Fate of Those Who Completed the Map of Greenland.

The first explorers to perish on the ice cap of Greenland were Mylius Erichsen and his two comrades in November last. The earlier report that they had drifted on a glacier away from the east coast was inaccurate. Here are the facts as given by the surviving members of the expedition upon their arrival in Denmark:

In the spring of last year Erichsen started from his winter quarters in latitude 76 degrees 40 minutes, where his ship was in heavy ice, to explore the unknown northeast coast of Greenland. He had ten sledges, divided among four sledging parties. The work was successfully achieved, the northeast coast was outlined and was found to extend much farther to the east than had been expected.

Three of the sledge parties returned to the ship, but the fourth party, consisting of Erichsen, the commander, and Lieutenant Hagen and Mr. Brönlund, did not come back. Several parties were sent out to find them, but they were never seen again until last spring that definite news of their fate was obtained.

Erichsen and his two comrades had remained behind on the north coast to complete some details of their work. Bad weather set in, the ice broke up, and the body of the commander, Mylius Erichsen, was found in the middle of the ice. The body was sketched showing the results of the final explorations, and the dying man had written in his diary the following words:

I am dying in latitude 76 degrees north under the hands of the return journey over the ice. The last of the return journey was under a wan moon and cannot go on because of my frozen feet and the darkness. The bodies of the others are in the middle of the ice. Hagen died on November 15. Mylius Erichsen, the commander, died on November 16.

The body of Brönlund was buried where it was found, but the snow was very deep and the remains of the others were not recovered. Thus perished the men who paid with their lives for the honor of completing the outlining of the great island.

NOTES FROM ABROAD.

The Congo Free State in mid-Africa has 900,000 square miles of territory. At present its imports amount to only about \$4,000,000 a year, consisting of such commodities as iron, tin, copper, beer, canned meats, vegetables and other food products, steamers and boats, machinery, clothing, arms and ammunition, hardware and metals. The Congo Free State exports such commodities as rubber, ivory, gum, copal, palm kernels and palm oil. (Consular report No. 2222 tells how Americans can share in the trade of the Congo.)

From the United States for Tahiti are despatched only by steamers sailing from San Francisco—not from Seattle, as many had thought. The past in the extensive bays of central island is to be utilized with a view to generating electric power. The bays are to be lighted by electric ways and light the cities of that region. The bays cover 674 square miles. One works can get 15,000 horse-power for fifty years on a 30 per cent load factor.

Italy during the next sixteen years will spend \$107,000,000 to construct 802 miles of new roads as well as to improve existing roads.

British South Africa imports over \$2,000,000 worth of lumber, mainly from the United